

Joint Inquiry Into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

aka: The Joint Congressional Inquiry (JCI)

Timeline

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| September 11, 2001 | The "attacks" |
| December, 2001 | Senate vote to do an investigation (over objections of Chairmen) |
| February 14, 2002 | Announcement of the JCI (after 5-month delay, given 6 months to finish) |
| December 20, 2002 | Report approved and filed with the Senate and House |
| July, 2003 | Final release after Intelligence Community identified parts to be classified and redacted on grounds of national security, including 28 pages in which it was hinted evidence was mentioned implicating the Saudi government in 9/11. |

Some of the many problems with the JCI

- **Size** -- It involved only a small number of Senate and House members (37).
- **Conflicts of interest** -- A high percentage of these were insiders with long-term connections to the very intelligence apparatus they'd be investigating.
- **Limited Scope** -- The JCI could look only into intelligence "failures" preceding the terrorist attacks.
- **Secrecy** -- The Intelligence Committees basic operation is oriented toward secrecy rather than an open investigation, and limiting it to intelligence issues solidified that.
- **Obstruction** -- Its requests for documents often stymied, and received only a small portion of the requested documents.
- **Interference** -- The Whitehouse harassed the JCI investigators and censored their report.
- **FBI** -- The FBI was investigating the JCI members while the JCI was investigating the FBI.

A history of delays and leaks

It's important to note up front that both so-called "investigations" into 9/11, The Joint Congressional Inquiry (2002) and the 9/11 Commission Report, were both limited investigations with many omissions and distortions. They were both essentially flawed, incomplete cover-up investigations. As can be seen from the title of the JCI, its mission was to investigate the intelligence community activities to learn how they failed to protect the country from the alleged terrorists. They accepted the Bush administrations account of what happened and only investigated the failures within various intelligence gathering agencies. Its scope was very limited. They assumed that OBL and Al Queda orchestrated 9/11 and never sought to verify these claims by the Bush administration. And instead of addressing the reports that several of the alleged hijackers were alive after 9/11, the JCI ignored them.

The Bush administration did not want an investigation at all. "The White House stalled and stonewalled demanding that Congress not mandate an inquiry. Both Bush and especially Cheney personally lobbied senate majority leader Tom Daschle (D- SD)" arguing that "it would take

resources away from the war on terrorism.” (1) Senator Daschle also received anthrax in the mail, anthrax that we now know was made not by foreign "terrorists," but in a lab in the USA.

The Bush administration was able to delay having an investigation for 5 months until congress felt they had to conduct one in response to the lobbying efforts of the victims' family members, some members of Congress and a few independent news sources. "Clearly the establishment didn't want anyone questioning its official narrative; its resistance to investigating 9/11 was unprecedented" never before had Americans seen such a delayed inquiry into a national calamity."

All of the other investigations into national tragedies, like the JFK assassination, began within roughly one week after the event.

The delay allowed time for much of the evidence at the WTC site to be shipped overseas or destroyed. It also allowed the time needed for the molten metal present at ground zero for several months after 9/11 to cool and solidify, thus taking away important evidence that something hotter than jet fuel and office fires brought down the towers. Also by the time the inquiry began the erroneous official account of what happened had been repeated over and over again by the corporate, and many alternative media, to the effect that most Americans believed it to be true.

The Bush administration finally agreed to an investigation by the joint intelligence committees, whose proceedings typically remain secret.

Two of the more influential insiders were the two chairmen of the JCI, Senator Bob Graham and Congressman Porter Goss. Neither wanted a congressional inquiry into 9/11, but in December of 2001 the senate voted for one anyway.

In response to an alleged leak from the JCI, Chairman Senator "Bob Graham called a special meeting of JCI leaders to placate Cheney. They "requested" the DOJ conduct a criminal inquiry into whether anyone leaked information. In response, the FBI built dossiers on members and staffers and was investigating them while they were investigating the FBI.

"The JCI squandered a lot of resources investigating itself."